

MCO

Secret

No Foreign Dissem



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Report

Weekly Report

Prepared Exclusively for the
Senior Interdepartmental Group

Secret

43

27 November 1967
No. 0438/67

SECRET

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, sections 793 and 794, of the US Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

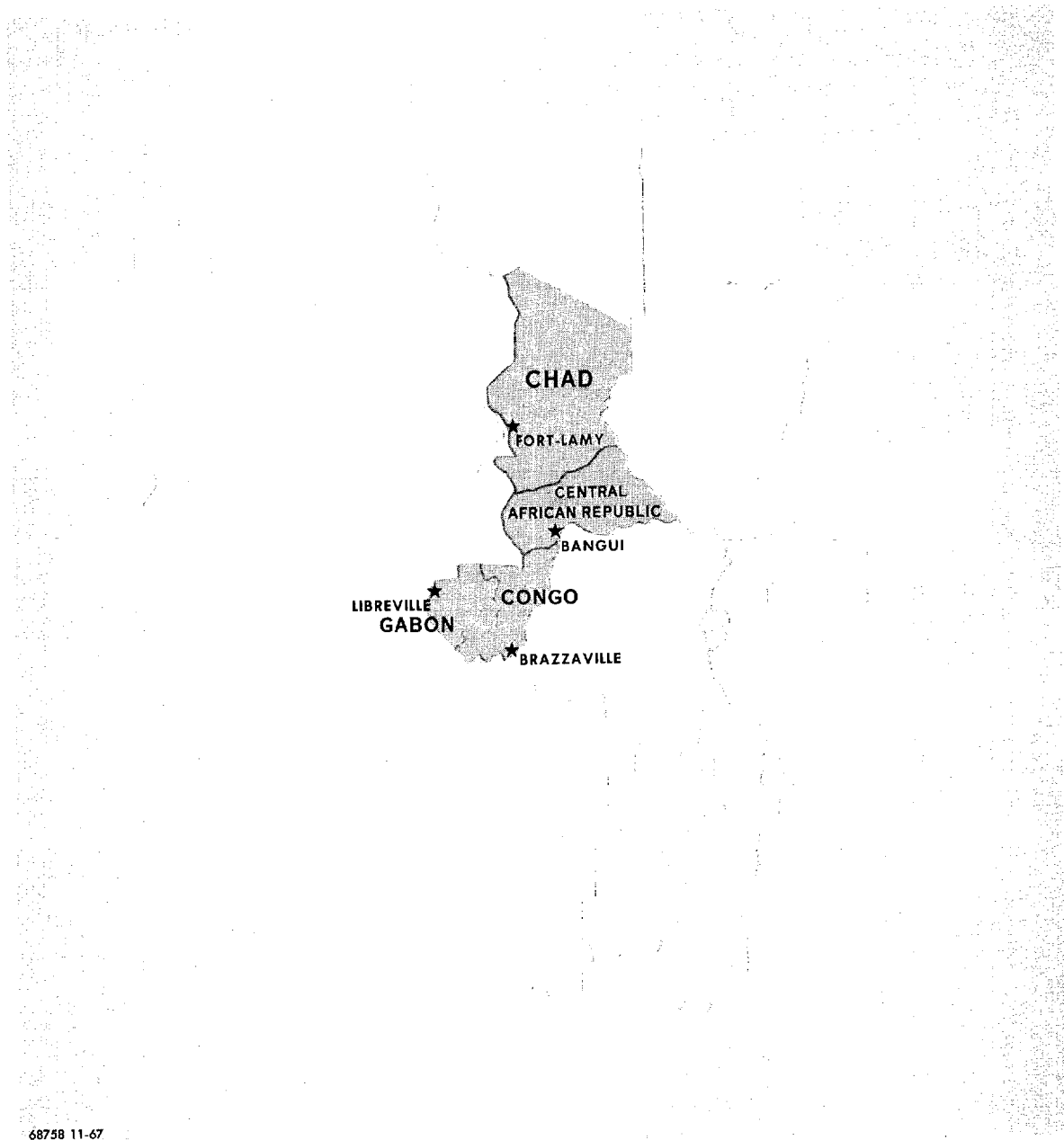
SECRET

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
1. Former French Equatorial Africa	1

27 November 1967

SECRET



68758 11-67

FORMER FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA

Both France and the four local governments are concerned over the stability of the ex-French colonies in equatorial Africa. France's affirmative response early this month to a request from President Bokarra of the Central African Republic for the airlift of troops to Bangui exemplifies its attitude toward the problem. Bokarra is anxious about alleged plotting by Finance Minister Banza, his chief adviser and principal potential rival. Bokassa also [REDACTED] accused the US of involvement in this plotting.

25X6

Of the four countries, uneasiness is most prevalent in Gabon. The possibility of turmoil following the seemingly imminent death of President Leon Mba appears to have both the French and local leaders jittery. The French are anxious to preserve their influence in Gabon, their primary source of uranium ore, but wish to avoid a repetition of their direct intervention in 1964 that squelched an otherwise successful coup.

In Chad, the two-year-old Muslim rebellion continues to escalate gradually. The French have stepped up their involvement in counterinsurgency operations there during the past year in an effort to keep President Tombalbaye in power.

Events in Congo (Brazzaville) remain shrouded in obscurity, but the deployment of French troops in Bangui is likely to have a sobering effect on anti-Western radicals there.

France has defense agreements with all four states, and maintenance-of-order accords with three of them. Under the latter, French troops may be called in to quell internal disorders in Gabon, Chad, and Congo. The airlift to Bangui, which augments standing French forces in Fort Lamy and Libreville, is a relatively low-cost preventive measure that gives reassurance to the governments of the area and food for thought to potential coup makers. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM) (Map)

Secret Approved For Release 2001/08/14 : CIA-RDP79T00826A003000010001-1

Secret

Approved For Release 2001/08/14 : CIA-RDP79T00826A003000010001-1